

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02383 231543Z

46

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-05 A-01

OC-05 CCO-00 MMO-01 USSS-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /050 W

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O 231521Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 338

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2383

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO EGYPT- VEHICLES IN LUXOR

REF: STATE 33567, PARA 3

1. LUXOR IS SMALL, PROVINCIAL EGYPTIAN TOWN WITH NO PERMANENT GOE OFFICES. NEAREST OFFICIAL-TYPE VEHICLES ARE ABOUT 300 MILES AWAY IN CAIRO. ONLY VEHICLES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ARE EARLY 50'S VINTAGE TAXIS WHICH ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY, BUT WHICH WE INTEND USE FOR USSS AND ADMIN SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, CITY ITSELF HAS ONLY TWO TOURISTIC SITES (LUXOR AND KARNAK TEMPLES), ONE OF WHICH IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF HOTEL. REMAINING POINTS OF INTEREST (VALLEYS OF KINGS, NOBLES, ETC..) ARE ON WESTERN SIDE OF NILE AND THERE ARE NO VEHICLE FERRIES. PASSENGER FERRY BOATS LEAVE FROM FRONT OF HOTEL. IN SHORT, WE SEE LITTLE OR NO REQUIREMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL SEDAN TRANSPORTATION.

2. FOR THESE REASONS, WE THINK IT UNWISE SEND SEDANS TO LUXOR DURING SECRETARY SIMON'S BRIEF STAY, OTHER THAN HEAVY, PARTIALLY ARMORED SEDAN PROVIDED BY EMBASSY. WE HAD PLANNED TO RELY ON BUSES (ONE 37 PASSENGER, ONE 10PASSENGER MINI BUS) FOR TRANSPORTATION OF REST OF PARTY IN LUXOR.

3. IF HOWEVER, TREASURY STILL PREFERS SEDANS, WE COULD RENT SEDANS IN CAIRO AT COST OF LE 145 (\$220.00) EACH

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02383 231543Z

FOR THE THREE DAYS AND SEND THEM TO LUXOR FOR

INDIVIDUAL USE . WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE ENGLISH PEAKING
DRIVERS. TOTAL COST FOR NINE SEDANS NEEDED WOULD BE
APPROXIMATELY \$2,000. BECAUSE ARRANGEMENTS TO RENT
SEDANS TO BE SENT TO LUXOR WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST SEVEN
WORKING DAYS, REQUEST TREASURY DECISION BY COB
FEBRUARY 24 IF INDIVIDUAL SEDANS ARE STILL WANTED.
EILTS

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